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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT

Description of Krasnodar/Activities
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1.

45 02N 39 00E the city of Krasnodar
located on the north bank of the Kuban River. Kras-
nodar, according to the 1937 census, had a population of 206,000; how-
ever, the population of the city rose to 220,000 in 1941.
in 1943 the population had decreased to 160,000 a change
tributed to the advance of the oncoming German armies.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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History

2. Krasnodar was occupied by the German Army during 1943. Krasnodar is the administrative center of the Krasnodar region of the Communist Party and is the former capitol of the Kuban Cossack Army. Prior to the 1917 revolution, Krasnodar was called Eraterissdar [sic] and was the headquarters of General (fnu) Denkin, Cossack General. The city was founded in 1782 by the Cossacks. There were actually two branches of Cossacks in the Kuban region, one of which lived near the southern section of the Kuban River. These people were of Ukrainian ancestry and of course spoke their native Ukraine language. The second branch of the Cossacks lived along the northern section of the Kuban River above the village of Ust Laba. This segment of the Cossack group spoke the pure Russian language. During the 1917 revolution entire communities of Cossacks were executed or sent to Siberia. The Communists transplanted many peasant communities from the southern Ukraine to the Kuban region to fill the gap created by the liquidation of the Cossacks.

only 25% of the entire population of the Kuban region were of Cossack ancestry

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there were several small communities of Persians in the Kuban region who were also executed or sent to Siberia during the great purge of 1917.

Physical Description - Transportation

3.

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Krasnodar is a very flat city and almost elongated in shape. The nearest mountains, the Caucasus, are some 70 km to the north. The city has two main suburbs which are Dukinka and Pokrouka. The city is laid out in almost a checker board arrangement with the streets for the most part perpendicular to each other. The exceptions to this are the immediate areas near the Kuban River. The three principal streets in Krasnodar are Krasnaya (the main street and most heavily traveled), Proletarian and Gogol St. Krasnodar's streets are quite wide, and all have two way traffic lanes. The streets are paved with paving blocks, but in the center of each street, tracks for streetcars are imbedded in asphalt. Traffic moves very rapidly since public, or rather the State streetcar transportation system, is practically the only means of getting anywhere. There were no private automobiles, busses, taxis or subways in Krasnodar. Krasnodar has a large rail center and a great deal of commerce passes through it. The four main branches of the railroad are Krasnodar to Novorossiisk through Tikhoretsk, the second runs to Stalingrad, the third branch to Kropotkin and the fourth to Timashevskaya. The rail yards are guarded by the State police and while vigilance is maintained against sabotage, greater effort is directed towards the protection of the railroad bridges. In 1942, the Soviets maintained a 24 hour watch on all of the railroad bridges in Krasnodar. they maintain the same surveillance today. Railroad transportation is almost the only means of transportation in and out of Krasnodar for the average individual. Krasnodar has two railroad stations which are in the north of the city. One of them was used principally for freight and the second was used for passengers. The Krasnodar railroad bridge runs over the Kuban River and carries freight to the Novorossiisk area. The bridge was constructed of concrete.

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4. There are a number of roads leading out of Krasnodar and, for the most part, follow the same route as the railroads. The roads were constructed of asphalt. These roads run to Kropotkin, Stalingrad, Novorossiisk, Timashevskaya, Pritsepilovka and Starokorsunskaya. The latter by-passed Pashkovskaya. The road system was in general very poor, because the highways were not in great use. They do not compare with roadways in the US. Probably the best road was from Krasnodar to Beverskaya. This is a two-lane asphalt highway. There is also a highway bridge constructed of wood which runs over the Kuban River to Novorossiisk.

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5. The Kuban River is probably the second most important transportation artery to and from Krasnodar. This river which has its origin at Nevinnomyssk is used only for river boat traffic. Krasnodar has no deep water port, but has facilities for the repairs of river boats. The Kuban River is of vital importance because of the volume of river traffic which supplies Krasnodar's industries.

Airports

6. Krasnodar has several airports. [redacted] The most secret airport was the military installation directly north of the city. [redacted] it was quite large; however, it was closely guarded and no civilians were permitted near it. [redacted]

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[redacted] The airport would be vital during time of war in guarding Krasnodar's industries and rail centers.

Industries

7. Krasnodar's principal industry is oil refining, and there are a number of oil storage tanks near the outskirts of the city. Krasnodar also has a vegetable oil processing plant which produces oleomargarine, and lubricating oils from soybeans. Other industries include a tannery, tobacco factory, a small ceramics plant and of course, ship repair facilities for the Kuban River boats. Another important factory was the Krasnodar machine tool plant known as "Sedin", which produces heavy agricultural equipment.

Buildings and Housing - Electric Power

8. The majority of buildings in Krasnodar are constructed of natural stone or brick. Some are of frame construction, but these are usually only used as residences for the townspeople. Office buildings and factories are constructed of brick. The largest building in Krasnodar is the Praga Hotel which is seven stories in height. Possibly the sandy soil substructure of Krasnodar precludes the construction of taller buildings. [redacted]

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[redacted] The laboring class lived in very small State-owned apartment houses and in most instances there were two or three families squeezed into one apartment. There was no such thing as private ownership of any property. The residential section of Krasnodar is quite crowded. Houses are numbered as they are in the US, with the odd numbers on the left and even numbers on the right. [redacted]

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[redacted] The streets of Krasnodar are also lighted by electricity, but, for the most part, lighting was quite ineffective. The street lights were quite dim and on a particularly foggy night visibility was practically nil. Electric power for the city of Krasnodar was provided by two power plants, one of which is in the SE section of the city and is the newer of the two. The streetcars have their own power plant as do the oil refineries.

Parks and Monuments

9. There are several public parks and monuments in Krasnodar. The principal monument, the statue of Lenin, was in front of Ataman's Palace, named after the leader of the Cossack Army. Originally there had been a statue of Catherine the Great, but during the revolution of 1917 it was removed. There is also a triumphal arch in Krasnodar, built as a monument to the victories of the Soviet Army.

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Educational Institutions

10. Krasnodar had many educational institutions which were available to the individual if he were a member of the Communist Party. The higher educational institutions were in the technical and scientific fields and included the following:

- (a) Krasnodar Medical Institute
- (b) Krasnodar Agricultural Institute, specializing in tobacco research.
- (c) Krasnodar Institute of Margarine Manufacturers
- (d) Krasnodar Pedagogic Institute
- (e) Krasnodar Scientific Research Center
- (f) All USSR Tobacco Research Institute
- (g) Institute of Conservation Research
- (h) Agricultural Research Center

Medium educational institutions included:

- (a) Krasnodar Technical School
- (b) Nursing and Medical Technical School

There were also several prep schools and high schools [redacted]

[redacted] Free education was available to all members of the Communist Party and their families.

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Health Conditions - Water Supply

11. Medical care in Krasnodar was very good and was provided for all of the working class through state paid health insurance
12. The water supply in Krasnodar was provided by means of Artesian wells and in most cases was inadequate [redacted] however, the water was pure, and no serious epidemics resulted from a polluted water system.

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Newspapers - Radio

13. There was only one daily newspaper during my residence in Krasnodar and that was the "Red Standard" which was later changed to "Bolshevik". It was of course a propaganda organ for the Communist Party. The other means of propaganda used by the Communists was the radio. Each individual could purchase a radio for 300-1500 rubles if he could afford it; most of the sets were of the six-tube variety, although four and eight tube radios were also available. If a radio required servicing, it was necessary to call Krasnodar Radio Center which was operated by the district committee. In 1941, all radios were confiscated by the NKVD and each individual was given a "receipt". [redacted] Public loud speakers throughout the city replaced the radios, and all news which the people were to hear was broadcast through these speakers.

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Black Market

14. Black market conditions in Krasnodar were particularly bad, but the local city authorities did not attempt to prosecute the offenders. [redacted] they were actually operating the entire scheme for their own benefit. The black market operated principally in sugar, grain, beef, clothing and cigarettes.

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Churches

15. Krasnodar had several churches [redacted]; however, they were all closed down with the exception of the North Church on North Street. This was the "State-approved" church. The White Cathedral was in existence before the revolution but was destroyed by the Communists. All the Catholic and Protestant churches were turned into warehouses and the priests and ministers forced to leave the city.

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Telephone and Telegraph

16. The telephone facilities in Krasnodar were only fair. If an individual's professional or "party" standing were high enough he was permitted to have a telephone.

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The phones did not use a dial system, and it was necessary to secure one's number through the operator. There was no limit on the number of calls one could make. One could not send a telegram over the phone, but was required to send all telegrams from a central telegraph office. As far as mail is concerned, public mail boxes were available to post all mail if the letters or parcels had been properly stamped. Mail delivery was twice a day, six days a week and once on Sunday.

Municipal Government

17. The local city government of Krasnodar was under the supervision of the District Committee also known as the "Kraylspol". The Secretariat of the Communist Party was head of the District Committee and the heads of all city departments including the city council were directly responsible to the Secretariat. One of Krasnodar's former secretariats /sic/ is now /October 1952/ in the Presidium of Moscow. His name is (fnu) Ignatov.

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General Living Conditions

18. Life in Krasnodar was very drab, and the suffering was great among the laboring classes. They did not have enough food and lived under very crowded conditions. The individual worker had no freedom to select his job after 1938. An individual could not change his job unless permission was granted by the local Secretariat of the Communist Party. The only two reasons acceptable for changing one's job were (1) health and (2) moving to another area. The latter had to be approved by the Secretariat. The wages paid the workers were not in line with the high price of food and commodities, and, consequently, the standards of living were very low. The workers were required to work eight hours per day, six days a week; there were always incentive programs in effect for the good of the "fatherland" which required more production from the workers, and most of them had to work as high as 16 hours per day. The social life of Krasnodar was very limited. Occasionally the opera came to the city but, for the most part, the movies provided the greatest entertainment. During the summer months, weekly operettas were presented in the city park.

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